Amendment Serial No. 09/885,698

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A cross media error protection system for multimedia data having a plurality of media streams of different type, the system comprising: a calculation system for determining the size of each media stream over a particular time interval and the relative proportions of said media streams; a packaging system for packaging the multimedia data into discrete packets, wherein each packet includes a plurality of fields, and wherein data segments from each of the media streams are placed into different ones of the plurality of fields; and an insertion system for inserting error protection data into one of the plurality of fields in each packet, wherein a size of each of the plurality of fields is proportional to a size of each of the plurality of the media streams.

2. (Canceled).

- 3. (Original) The cross media error protection system of claim 1, wherein a size of each of the plurality of fields is set at predetermined proportions.
- 4. (Original) The cross media error protection system of claim 1, wherein the plurality of media streams are selected from the group consisting of audio, video, graphics, and text.
- 5. (Original) The cross media error protection system of claim 1, further comprising a decoder for decoding the discrete packets of multimedia data.
- 6. (Currently Amended) An encoder for packaging multimedia data having a first and a second type of media stream, comprising: means for receiving the multimedia data;

Amendment Serial No. 09/885,698

a calculation system for determining the size of each media stream over a particular time interval and the relative proportions of said media streams; and means for packaging the multimedia data into discrete packets, wherein each packet includes a first field for holding a segment of the first type of media, a second field for hold a segment of the second type of media stream, and a third field for holding error protection data; wherein the sizes of the first and second media stream.

- 7. (Original) The encoder of claim 6, wherein the first and second type of media streams are selected from the group consisting of audio, video, text, and graphics.
- 8. (Currently Amended) A decoder for unpackaging multimedia data having a first and a second media stream of different type, the decoder comprising: means for receiving multimedia data; a calculation system for determining the size of each media stream over a particular time interval and the relative proportions of said media streams; and means for reading the multimedia data from discrete packets, wherein each packet includes a first field having a segment from the first media stream, a second field having a segment from the second media stream, and a third field having error protection data; wherein the sizes of the first and second field are proportional to the sizes of the first and second media stream.
- 9. (Original) The decoder of claim 8, wherein the first and second type of media streams are selected from the group consisting of audio, video, text, and graphics.

Amendment Serial No. 09/885,698

- 10. (Currently Amended) A method for providing cross media error protection for multimedia data, the method comprising: receiving multimedia data having a plurality of media streams, each of a different type; determining a size of each media stream over a particular time interval and the relative proportions of said each media streams; packaging the multimedia data into a plurality of discrete packets, wherein each discrete packet includes a data segment from each of the media streams, and wherein a size of each packet is proportional to the size of each media stream; and inserting error protection data into each packet.
 - 11. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein each of the discrete packets have a same size.
 - 12. (Original) The method of claim 10, comprising the further step of transmitting the discrete packets.
 - 13. (Original) The method of claim 12, comprising the further step of decoding the discrete packets back into the plurality of media streams.
 - 14. (Currently Amended) A program product stored on a recordable media for providing cross media error protection for multimedia data, the program product comprising: program code configured to receive multimedia data having a plurality of media streams, each of a different type; program code configured to determine a size of each media stream over a particular time interval and the relative proportions of said media streams; program code configured to package the multimedia data into a plurality of discrete packets, wherein each discrete packet includes a data segment from each of

Amendment Serial No. 09/885,698

the media streams, and wherein a size of each packet is proportional to the size of each media stream; and program code configured to insert error protection data into each packet.

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- 15. (Original) The program product of claim 14, where the size of each media stream is determined over a predetermined interval of time.
- 16. (Original) The program product of claim 14, where the size of each media stream is estimated.